

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Board of Supervisors	(2) MEETING DATE 3/26/2013	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Supervisor Bruce Gibson 781-5450	
(4) SUBJECT Request to endorse the Children's Bill of Rights for San Luis Obispo County.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors endorse the Children's Bill of Rights for San Luis Obispo County.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) N/A	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(9) BUDGETED? N/A
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT { } Consent {x} Presentation { } Hearing (Time Est. ____) { } Board Business (Time Est. <u>15 min</u>)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS { } Resolutions { } Contracts { } Ordinances {x} N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) n/a		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: n/a { } 4/5th's Vote Required {x} N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY {x} N/A Date: _____	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts -			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Board of Supervisors / Supervisor Bruce Gibson
781-5450

DATE: 3/26/2013

SUBJECT: Request to endorse the Children's Bill of Rights for San Luis Obispo County.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors endorse the Children's Bill of Rights for San Luis Obispo County.

DISCUSSION

The creation of a San Luis Obispo County Young Children's Bill of Rights is one part of the First 5 San Luis Obispo County Policy Platform in the Commission's 2011-15 Strategic Plan (excerpt below).

The First 5 San Luis Obispo County Policy Platform consists of two parts. The first part concerns First 5 San Luis Obispo County's intention to develop a San Luis Obispo County Young Children's Bill of Rights and the second part is made up of specific advocacy and policy activities tied to the Commission's five Initiatives.

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY YOUNG CHILDREN'S BILL OF RIGHTS

The Young Children's Bill of Rights will outline specific rights due to children, 0-5, based on their age and developmental status that honor their value to the community and their dignity as fellow individual human beings. This Bill of Rights is to be developed in collaboration with local youth-serving partners, and, of course, with input from families and from youth themselves.

The purposes of this effort are fivefold:

- Raise awareness of the fundamental importance of children, ages 0-5, in our community.*
- Summarize the Commission's aspirations for our children.*
- Delineate essential rights that belong to children.*
- Stress the importance of all aspects of development: physical, cognitive, behavioral, social, and emotional.*
- Provide a foundation for communitywide advocacy for our children.*

The Children's Bill of Rights presented today expands on the First 5 Commission's vision to include children older than five years old. It has been developed in a broad-based community approach. During the fall of 2012, *Community Conversations* were held throughout the county to engage people of all ages in the creative process of identifying core themes and ideas to include in a local Children's Bill of Rights. With each *Conversation*, the project gained momentum as more and more community members provided input into the structure, content and format of the document.

The writing process to draft the Bill of Rights has involved a “steering group” of adults and youth from throughout the County who bring a variety of perspectives – including education, health, parent advocacy, social service, and housing, among others.

Below is a list of groups involved in the process:

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS – FALL 2012	
ADULT GROUPS	Estimated #
First 5	7
ELFA	30
Children's Services Network	12
HEAL-SLO	20
Bakari Project Board	10
Asset Development Network	15
Georgia Brown First 5 Neighborhood Team	8
Oceano First 5 Neighborhood Team	8
First 5 Partners Meeting	12
Local Childcare Planning Council	15
Partnership for Excellence in Family Support	10
4-H Regional Board (4 youth; 7 adults)	11
SLO County School Nurses	18
SLO Oral Health Coalition	15
	191
YOUTH GROUPS	
Boys and Girls Club Keystone Club	12
CAPSLO Youth Advisory Group	6
Youth Works	12
United Way Youth Board	20
Montessori Children's School	10
	60

Five leadership organizations in the community were identified as initial “endorsers” and have been invited to join in partnership with First 5 San Luis Obispo County to formally endorse the Children’s Bill of Rights and collectively to call for additional endorsements and commitments to act on its principles in the interest of our children. The organizations are:

- ✓ San Luis Obispo County Office of Education
- ✓ San Luis Obispo County Health Commission
- ✓ United Way Youth Board of San Luis Obispo County
- ✓ Children’s Services Network
- ✓ San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors

The public launch of the Children’s Bill of Rights will occur during the first annual SLO County Children’s Summit scheduled for April 19, 2013. The summit will provide an opportunity to officially unveil the Children’s Bill of Rights, to begin the process of inviting additional community endorsements, and to begin the next step of designing an implementation plan that will pursue the ideals stated in the Bill.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

Multiple organizations and community members (youth and adults) participated in the development and creation of the Children's Bill of Rights for San Luis Obispo County. To date endorsements have been received from 1) First 5 San Luis Obispo County, 2) San Luis Obispo County Board of Education, 3) San Luis Obispo County Health Commission, 4) United Way Youth Board of San Luis Obispo County, and 4) Santa Lucia School Board. The Children's Services Network is scheduled to endorse the Rights on April 3, 2013.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no financial considerations associated with this item.

RESULTS

The Children's Bill of Rights for San Luis Obispo County emphasizes the importance of making children the highest priority in our community. If today's children of all races, ethnicities, and income levels are not adequately prepared, are not well educated, and their health needs are not addressed, they will not have the capacity to contribute productively to the future workforce.

Children's issues are everyone's issues and The Children's Bill of Rights for San Luis Obispo County will be used as a lens whereby county residents can share a common vision of SUCCESS for all children and youth, contributing to the County's goals of a safe, healthy, livable, prosperous and well-governed community.

ATTACHMENT

1. Children's Bill of Rights for San Luis Obispo County